

Amendment under 37 CFR § 1.111

Art Unit 3738

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Application No. 09/721,881

In the Specification

At page 6, Lines 6-14, please replace the existing paragraph with the following paragraph:

In one aspect, the present invention provides a radially expandable stent that includes a wire having a hydrogel coating layer thereon. Preferably the coating layer is substantially uniform. More preferably the stent has a hydrogel coating layer with an average dry coating thickness (T) of about 0.1 micrometer to about 25 micrometers, a standard deviation (σ), and a relative standard deviation ($100 \times \sigma / T$) of no greater than about 10 percent. The hydrogel coating layer may optionally include a biologically active agent. The coating layer preferably provides a hydrophilic, biocompatible surface.

At page 12, lines 19-25, please replace the existing paragraph with the following paragraph:

Preferably the coating and drying methods are selected so as to provide a coating with a substantially uniform thickness as measured by the standard deviation (σ). Preferably for a coating of dry thickness T, the relative standard deviation ($100 \times \sigma / T$) is no greater than about 10 percent.